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We receive funding from the federal, provincial and municipal governments, from the United Way, and from fundraising, special events, and individual donations.



A United Way Member Agency



Pacific Immigrant Resources Society

#205-2929 Commercial Drive
Vancouver, BC V5N 4C8
Tel: 604-298-5888

or
access our website:
<http://www.pirs.bc.ca>
email: info@pirs.bc.ca



Pacific Immigrant Resources Society

help us reach out

PIRS is a **non-profit** agency that has been providing services since 1975 to **immigrant women** and their young **children**. We have helped thousands of new Canadian women to gain the knowledge, skills, confidence and friendships they need to feel at home here, and open doors to greater participation in Canadian society. By providing **community-based** programs with quality on-site child care, we give young immigrant mothers the opportunity to create a supportive network, and focus on their own learning.

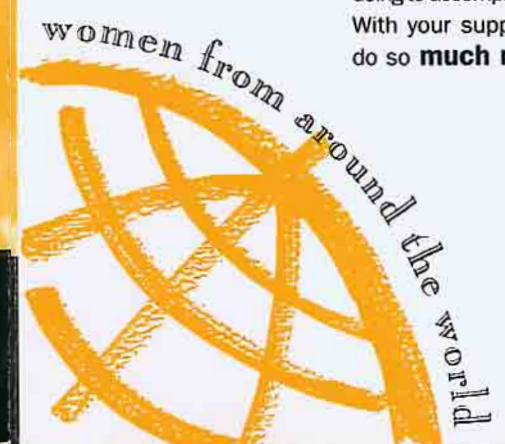
At **PIRS**, we believe that **enabling** women strengthens families. We know from experience that the investment we make is returned to the Canadian community many times over.

mission statement

The goal of PIRS is to ensure that immigrant women and their young children can participate fully in Canadian community life.

Recognition of the work we do comes from **partnerships** with the Vancouver School Board, community centres and neighbourhood houses; **financial support** from 3 levels of government and the United Way; contributions from our many **volunteers** who give thousands of hours of their time every year; and **requests** from other agencies for assistance in developing programs for immigrant women and children.

We are **proud** of what we are doing to accomplish our mission. With your support, we could do so **much more!**



“Attending the Building Bridges program at PIRS opened many doors for me – giving me renewed confidence, new friends, an awareness of new opportunities and encouragement to find my place in the sun. It has been a long journey, and I have found what I was looking for – a good job, a secure future and happiness for myself and my family.”

Rajpal Kohli

a welcoming hand

Women around the world share common goals and concerns. We want the best for our families, personal connections with our community, and a way to make a contribution to our society.

Women who have left the familiar behind to begin a new life in Canada require **access** to the information and services that will help them adapt to their new home, **awareness** of their rights and responsibilities, and the **opportunity** for their young children to develop the social and language skills they need for success in the Canadian school system.

Canada needs the skills and talents of all its citizens. Our strength lies in the **diversity** of experience and potential that individuals – those born here and those who have chosen to live here – bring to Canada. When immigrant women and their families find the support they need to develop their potential, we all **benefit**.



facing a challenge

For women everywhere, coping with the demands that we face daily is challenging. Most turn to family and friends—their **community**—for support.

But what if you have no community? What if you just arrived in a new country where you don't understand the **language** and you're suffering from **culture** shock? What if all the day-to-day tasks that you took for granted—shopping and using public transportation, for instance—now seem confusing?



“Starting my basic English with PIRS gave me the strength to be able to participate in other programs. I became a childminder working with PIRS, and I also participated in the LEAD program, in which I built my confidence to talk in front of a group. The children's programs helped my two youngest children a lot – they entered school with no problem at all.”
Maria Chow

an opportunity to learn

PIRS offers programs directed at helping women practice **English**, make **friends**, gain **self-confidence**, learn more about Canadian **society**, and explore and celebrate our cultural diversity.



“For me it was good being in a multicultural LEAD group with other women sharing our experiences and learning and understanding more about other cultures. Some of us had been here only a few months and some like me had been here longer but we found out that we all had the same experiences in different ways. Knowing that we weren't alone helped us a lot.”
Osiris de Lopez

ESL (English as a second language)

Programs that focus on everyday English and literacy skills, and access to community resources and services.

LEAD Program

A group participation, support, and **leadership** training program where women learn more about themselves, each other and the community.

Building Bridges

Training and practical **experience** in group facilitation for women who want to run group programs.

Children's Programs

Quality childcare for preschoolers to play and **learn** together while their mothers take our courses.

Volunteer Program

An opportunity for **PIRS** participants and others to **give** to the community, share their skills and talents, and meet people from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Consultation Services

Sharing our **knowledge** and experience with other agencies interested in developing similar programs in their communities.

a chance to share



yes I want to help!



We need your **financial support** to continue to provide quality programs for immigrant women and their young children and to enhance those programs to meet the **growing needs** in our community. Your donation will be put to **good use**. Join our Circle of Friends or Partnership Program!

Circle of Friends Program

some examples...

- Circle of Hands \$1 to \$99** \$50 purchases wooden puzzles or hard cover story books for our children's program.
- Hearts of Friendship \$100 to \$249** \$180 will subsidize the fee for 6 women in a LEAD program once a week for 24 weeks.
- Wings of Opportunity \$250 to \$999** \$600 will cover the costs of a field trip to the Children's Festival for 40 families.

Partnership Program

some examples...

- Outreach Partner \$1,000 to \$2,499** \$2,400 provides the part time salary of a Bilingual Outreach worker for 20 weeks.
- Operating Partner \$2,500 to 4,999** \$4,000 allows us to update our computer capabilities and office efficiency.
- Access Partner \$5,000 to \$7,499** \$5,400 buys bus tickets to enable 30 women to travel to an ESL class twice a week for 30 weeks.
- Program Partner \$7,500 or more** \$8,500 will sponsor a Building Bridges program for 15 women.

Yes, I want to join the PIRS Circle of Friends. Enclosed is my gift of

- \$1 to \$99 Circle of Hands
- \$100 to \$249 Hearts of Friendship
- \$250 to \$999 Wings of Opportunity

Yes, I want to join the Partnership Program. Enclosed is my gift of

- \$1,000 to \$2,499 Outreach Partner
- \$2,500 to \$4,999 Operating Partner
- \$5,000 to \$7,499 Access Partner
- \$7,500 or more Program Partner

Please make your cheque payable to
Pacific Immigrant Resources Society
#205-2929 Commercial Drive
Vancouver, BC V5N 4C8

A charitable donations receipt will be issued for all contributions.

Name (First) _____ (Last) _____

Address _____

City _____ Postal Code _____

Phone _____

Your gift will be recognized in the **PIRS** Newsletter and the **PIRS** Annual Report. If you wish to remain anonymous, please check here:

- I prefer to remain anonymous
- I would like to receive the newsletter 3 times a year.
- I wish to know more about **PIRS** programs and services.
- I would like to talk to someone about volunteering for **PIRS**.



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thank you thank you
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